

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives take tremendous joy in recognizing those Show-Me State collegiate athletic programs which have demonstrated excellence in sportsmanship, training, and achievement; and

**Whereas**, the Missouri Western State College Griffons men's basketball team captured First Place in MIAA competition on March 9, 2003, with a 75-65 victory over Washburn University of Kansas at the neutral site of Kansas City Municipal Auditorium; and

**Whereas**, admirably trained, motivated, and coached by Head Coach Tom Smith, Assistant Coach Mike Nicholson, and Graduate Assistant Brett Esely, the Missouri Western basketball team showcases the talent of Tee Mason, Lynn Stevenson, Jay Gentry, Lou Chapman, Matt Grove, Cy Musser, Mario Davis, Larry Taylor, Tyrice Mitchell, and Damon Bailey; and

**Whereas**, the third MIAA Tournament title in fifteen years for Coach Smith, the March 9 victory against Washburn came on the heels of a 75-65 loss to that same team on February 26 on home territory in the Missouri Western Fieldhouse; and

**Whereas**, teammate Damon Bailey earned Most Valuable Player honors after finishing the three-day tournament with 74 points and scoring 27 points on 9 of 17 shooting during the final game; and

**Whereas**, the basketball Griffons claimed their first MIAA trophy since 1998 by overcoming earlier tournament challenges by the University of Missouri-Rolla and arch-rival Northwest Missouri State University; and

**Whereas**, before a crowd of more than 3,000 who gathered at the Municipal Auditorium, the Missouri Western players trailed Washburn 32-29 at halftime in a game in which the Griffons controlled the tempo by running the shot clock down with each possession, switched to a 2-3 zone defense early in the second half, and then took a sustained lead with an 11-0 run that made the score 45-39 with 13 minutes, 49 seconds, remaining:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the rise of the Missouri Western State College basketball Griffons to the top of the MIAA and to convey to the team's coaches and players this legislative body's heartiest congratulations for gaining an automatic berth to the NCAA Division II Tournament and our best wishes for continued post-season success; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the 2003 MIAA Champion Missouri Western State College Griffons.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Ed Wildberger

District No. 27

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 886, adopted March 17, 2003.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker